









by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

Greetings from the MASH unit! I'm at my own Ground Zero command center...at home. Thanks to all of you who have sent your well wishes and get well cards - they do cheer me up. I am also grateful for the flowers and the fruit basket - all of these acts of kindness help me get through this one day at a time,. This injury is going to take awhile to heal. I am trying to develop patience. Humility, I have already developed, just two weeks into this ordeal. I'm sure there will be more opportunities for character development as this experience waxes on.

I hope you all enjoyed the activities that were planned for employee appreciation week. Central office had a full week of appreciation activities: Monday we had gourmet cupcakes. Tuesday there were ice cream sundaes with all the fixins. Wednesday everyone received a central office t-shirt that says "One team – one mission." Thursday everyone enjoyed a hotdog and nacho lunch. Friday we wrapped up with an early morning treat of sausage- jalapeño-cheese biscuits. Auditor Gay Lynn Brown did all the cooking and the executive team served the goodies and performed setup and cleanup. I really do appreciate all that our staff does, throughout the agency. Please know that you ARE special and you ARE appreciated.

And while we are talking about appreciation, this Sunday we will take time out to honor our mothers, or those who have acted like mothers in our lives. I was very fortunate, and I rarely do this – but I actually got all my Mother's Day cards bought long before I injured my leg, so I got all the cards in the mail before Mother's Day. I was so proud of myself for thinking ahead this time - it paid off. So, I won't be able to spend Mother's Day with my mother, but at least she got a card. Maybe next year, Mom. And for those of you who will spend your Mother's Day caring for our secure care kids, many of whom will not be able to see their own moms, I know you will give them a little extra attention. If you are fortunate enough to still have your mother, please visit, or call. If you know of any moms who will be spending Mother's Day alone, consider inviting them to be with your family or do something special for them.

Well, the weekend sounds like all over Louisiana, it's going to be a good weekend to read a book, or watch some movies, or clean out some closets, cause it's going to be raining, I guess my weekend is going to be the same, because I can either read or I can watch some movies. I am reading some good books as I lay here.

So, be safe, be careful, be kind. Until next week – remember that I appreciate all that you do, every day, not just during Employee Appreciation Week, and everywhere in OJJ's world, to meet the mission.

Sincerely, "Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers